

Stewart/Hunter Lifestyle



Courtesy Photo

Jack Golden, an award winning environmental educator, will share his hilarious and informative program, “Water, Water Everywhere,” at the 2007 Earth Day Celebrtion.

Liberty County to celebrate Earth Day

Special to the Frontline

Liberty County kids will have an opportunity on Tuesday, April 17, to celebrate Earth Day at Bradwell Park in downtown Hinesville. Several organizations in the county are sponsoring this fun and educational event.

“We put this event together to give children and their parents a chance to celebrate Earth Day and learn more about the fantastic natural resources we have in Liberty County,” said Sara Ann Swida, director for Keep Liberty County Beautiful. “We want to increase awareness about ways we can all protect our environment---particularly our waterways.”

Earth Day in the park starts at 3:30 p.m. with a sidewalk chalk art contest. The contest, with an environmental theme, is open to all ages.

“We want to invite all aspiring artists to come out and share their art with us, said Leah Poole,

United Way Director. “We are looking for art that expresses the need for caring for our environment--our wildlife, our land, and our waterways.”

Prizes will be awarded during the Earth Day program.

At 5 p.m., the Earth Day programs will kick off, beginning with an array of environmental exhibits. The park will be filled with a number of wildlife displays including information on air and water pollution, interactive three dimensional displays on coastal wetlands and non point source pollution, and information on local natural resources families may not be familiar with.

“One goal in planning this event was to increase awareness about local opportunities that families can visit to experience our natural treasures here in our coastal community,” said Sandy White, director of tourism and downtown manager. “We will have displays and information on local historic and recreational sites in the county.”

“We have many free, and nearly free, opportunities that our local families can enjoy right here in Liberty County,” she continued.

Each exhibit will also have a variety of items for kids including face painting, bookmarks, coloring sheets, temporary tattoos, and game pages.

“Lasting learning can be fun so we want kids to have fun here and have fun at home continuing to learn about ways that their families can make a difference for our environment,” Swida said.

“We also have some additional rewards for many of the children who attend,” Swida continued. “The first 100 children, (ages) 12 and under, will receive free knapsacks. Also the church, civic or school youth group (who brings) the most children, will receive a gift certificate for \$50 for a pizza party.”

The fun does not stop there. McDonalds, one of the event sponsors, is providing hamburgers and drinks for the first 250 participants at the event.

A drawing will be held at the end of the program for a Gameboy Advance and Six Flags tickets, provided by the Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Division.

The main attraction is at 6 p.m. where Jack Golden, an award winning environmental educator, will share his hilarious and informative program, “Water, Water Everywhere.” Jack uses his unique blend of slapstick, hip hop, and vaudeville entertainment to get kids thinking about ways they can prevent polluting water used for drinking, fishing and recreational activities.

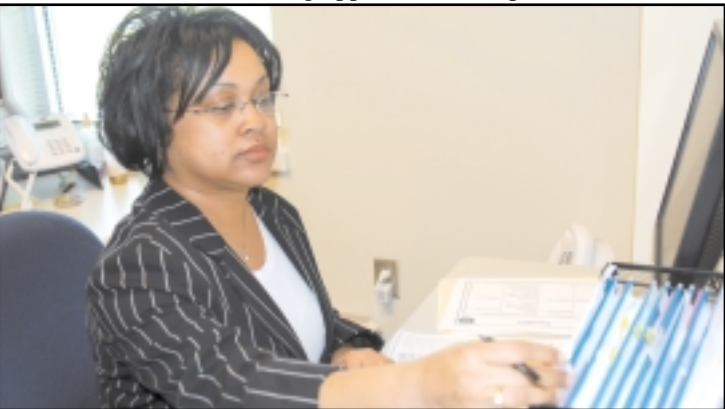
“We want everyone to leave this event appreciating local resources like our waterways and understand that it is up to us to take care of them,” said Kenny Smiley, director for the Liberty County Chamber of Commerce.

For more information about Earth Day, contact Sara Ann Swida at 368-4888 or email to klcb@coastalnow.net.

Student summer hire program opens

Jennifer Scales
Frontline staff

Student summer hire applications for Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield are now being accepted through May 11, but the first cutoff date for receiving applications is April 30.



Jennifer Scales

Angela Francis, human resource technician at the Stewart CPAC.

Students hired in the Student Temporary Employment Program are scheduled to work from June 10 through Aug. 4. Administrative clerical and laborer positions will be filled through the STEP.

Applicants must be between the ages of 16 and 23. Those under the age of 18 must have a work permit, which can be usually be obtained from their local board of education.

Basic paperwork includes a resume which should demonstrate three months of generalized experience.

This work may have been gained from previous summer hire experience, work on a school project, or work at a fast food establishment, indicated Jerome Bonner, human resource officer of the Fort Stewart Civilian Personnel Advisory Center.

“Other documents that should be submitted include a letter from the school of the applicant’s good academic standing, copy of birth certificate, and copy of Social Security card,” added Bonner.

“Students must be enrolled in school. If they have graduated from high school, they need to bring in a document stating acceptance into a college or university,” continued Bonner. “If currently in college, transcripts and letters will be accepted as proof of school attendance.”

June 10 will be the first day of work, in addition to a big day for

inprocessing. Those who have been hired for work at Hunter will be transported there on that first day after the processing is complete at Stewart.

Bonner stated that even though the budget is tight across the Army, this is an opportunity to make a difference for those youngsters that are coming to work into the summer hire program.

“Whether it is clerical or manual labor, they will be gainfully employed and will acquire meaningful experience. It is a way for the garrison, in a small way, to show their appreciation to the family members of the Soldiers that are deployed,” Bonner said.

He added that there are some pretty good employees on the installation who don’t mind taking some young people under their wing to show them how the real world really operates.

“We are going to have high expectations of them (students),” said Bonner.

Laborers will earn \$11.58 per hour while clerical applicants receive \$10.09 per hour.

All applications, whether for Stewart or Hunter, must be turned into the CPAC at Stewart. Angela Francis, human resource technician in the CPAC, is the point of contact for applicants.

She is available to receive applications Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. More information is available by calling 767-5051.

Commissaries recall several olive brands

Special to the Frontline

FORT LEE, Va. – Commissaries worldwide have been directed to remove from their shelves several brands of olives that have the potential to be contaminated with Clostridium botulinum, a bacterium that can cause a life-threatening illness or death.

The potential for botulism contamination prompted a voluntary recall by the manufacturer after routine testing found that the product had been under processed.

To date, there have been no reports of illnesses connected with this recall.

However, consumers are warned not to use the product even if it does not look or smell spoiled.

This recall applies to products containing codes beginning with the letter “G” followed by three or four digits under the following brands:

- Borrelli
- Bonta di Puglia
- Cento
- Corrado’s

- Dal Raccolto
- Flora
- Roland
- Vantia

Botulism, a potentially fatal form of food poisoning, can cause general weakness, dizziness, double vision and trouble with speaking or swallowing.

Difficulty in breathing, weakness of other muscles, abdominal distension and constipation may also be common symptoms.

People experiencing these problems should seek immediate medical attention.

Any commissary customers who have this product at home are asked to return it to the store from which they purchased it for a full refund. Any unused portions of the product should not be consumed.

The Defense Commissary Agency operates a worldwide chain of commissaries providing groceries to military personnel, retirees and their families in a safe and secure shopping environment.

Authorized patrons purchase items at cost plus a 5-percent surcharge, which covers the

costs of building new commissaries and modernizing existing ones.

Shoppers save an average of more than 30 percent on their purchases compared to commercial prices – savings worth about \$3,000 annually for a family of four.

A core military family support element, and a valued part of military pay and benefits, commissaries contribute to family readiness, and enhance the quality of life for America’s military and their families.



Pets of the Week



Michelangelo the kitten and Bear the dog are some of the many homeless pets at the Fort Stewart animal shelter. The shelter has pets of all kinds, sizes, and breeds in their care. If you are interested in adopting, call the Fort Stewart Veterinary Clinic at 767-2842.



MWR Briefs

Family discount days at Marne Lanes

Purchase a large topping pizza and receive four bowling games FREE every Saturday from 4-10 p.m. at Marne Lanes, Bldg 402.

Employment Orientation Workshop

An Employment Orientation Workshop is offered every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Education Center, Bldg 100. Session provides an employment overview within a 50-mile radius and current job vacancies. For more information, call 767-1257.

Matting and Framing Class

Learn the basics of matting and framing every first Saturday of the month from 8 a.m. – noon at the Leisure Activities Center, Bldg 443. Instruction is free. Participants are responsible for supplies. Pre-registration is required, call 767-8609.

Come enjoy the comedy show

Enjoy laughs at Phatt Katz Comedy Show, Fort Stewart at 9 p.m. every first Saturday of the month. Doors open at 8 p.m. and a party follows at Club Stewart. \$10 for advance tickets,

\$15 at the door. For tickets or more information, call Club Stewart at 368-2212.

CYS Family Night

Help support families of deployed Soldiers at 5:30 p.m. every 2nd Thursday of the month at the Youth Center. Child Youth Services will be conducting monthly family nights. FREE child care (register through CYS) and dinner will be provided. There will be family activities, coping support counseling, life skill classes and much more. For more information call 767-4491 or 767-4493.

FRG leader support

Family Readiness Group leaders come together to hear topics and discuss items of interest pertaining to family readiness from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month. For more information call 767-1257.

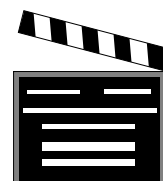
Follow Your Dreams

Military spouses, follow your dreams while you follow the military by attending a workshop presented by two military spouse authors from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., at Club Stewart. For more information, call 767-5058.



AAFES PRESENTS

APRIL 13 THROUGH 18



WILD HOGS

Friday, Saturday — 6 p.m.

Wednesday — 7 p.m.
(John Travolta, Tim Allen)

A group of middle-aged friends decide to rev up their routine suburban lives with a freewheeling motorcycle trip.

Taking a long dreamed-of breather from their stressful jobs and family responsibilities, they can't wait to feel the freedom of the open road. When this mismatched foursome – who have grown far more used to the couch than the saddle – set out for this once-in-a-lifetime experience, they encounter a world that holds far more than they ever bargained for.

Rated PG-13 (crude and sexual content, and some violence) 96 min

GHOST RIDER

Friday, Saturday — 6 p.m.

Wednesday — 7 p.m.

(Nicolas Cage, Eva Mendes)

A motorcycle stuntman, Johnny Blaze, makes a pact with a dark force, selling his soul to save his girlfriend. When the bargain goes sour and the girl isn't saved, Blaze is transformed, gaining raging superpowers. Based on the Marvel comic series.

Rated PG-13 (horror violence, disturbing images) 110 min

RENO 911!: MIAMI

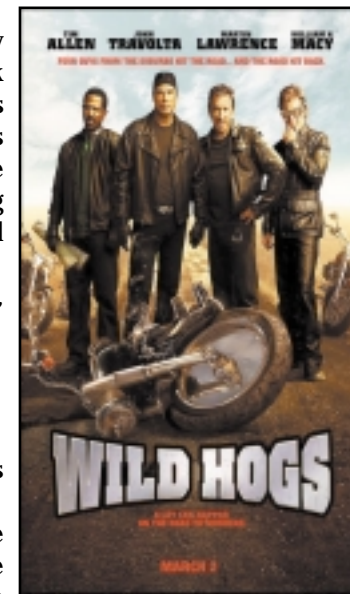
Sunday — 6 p.m.

Free Showing

(Robert Ben Garant, Thomas Lennon)

The officers of the Reno police department visit a national police convention in Miami Beach. When the convention center is bio-attacked, it's up to Reno's "finest" to save the day.

Rated R (sexual content, nudity, crude humor, language, drug use) 81 min



Films are subject to availability. AAFES strives to show films according to the published schedule, but reserves the right to reschedule, cancel, or substitute showings as needed. For more information, call 767-3069.

HEALTH W•A•C•H

Winn Army Community Hospital

Autism awareness: knowing the signs, symptoms

Jack Smith (Dr.)
TRICARE

In their early years, children go through many phases making it difficult to spot abnormal behavior. However, a significant delay in a child's development could suggest autism.

Parents should be aware of symptoms and signs associated with autism and should seek further evaluation for any behaviors causing concern.

Doctors aren't sure what causes autism and sadly there is no cure. But, early detection and treatment may change the course of the condition and allow children to function better in many ways.

Autism is a complex developmental disability that usually begins before age three, but signs of autism may be seen in children as early as 18 months. Children and adults with autism may have difficulty with social interactions, communication skills and play activities.

Signs of autism varies. Your child's doctor should consider further evaluation if you report any of the behaviors listed below. An evaluation would consider autism, among other possible causes.

If the child...

- Does not babble or coo by 12 months of age
- Does not gesture (point, wave, grasp, etc.) by 12 months of age
- Does not say single words by 16 months of age
- Does not say two-word phrases on his or her own (rather than just repeating what someone says to him or her) by 24 months of age
- Has any loss of any language or social skill at any age

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, other potential signs of autism include:

- Doesn't play "pretend" games, such as "feeding" a doll
- Doesn't point at objects to show interest, such as an airplane flying overhead
- Not looking at objects when another person points at them

- Difficulty relating to others or not having interest in other people at all
- Avoids cuddling and eye contact
- Appears unaware when people talk to them but respond to other sounds
- Is interested in people, but doesn't know how to talk, play or relate to them
- Repeats or echoes words or phrases, or repeating words or phrases in place of normal language
- Has trouble expressing their needs using words or motions
- Repeats actions
- Has difficulty adapting when a routine changes
- Reacts unusually to the way things smell, taste, look, feel or sound

TRICARE Coverage

If you're an active duty servicemember with a family member diagnosed with autism or another qualifying condition, the current Extended Care Health Option benefit provides wide-ranging services not available under the TRICARE Basic benefit, including:

- Diagnostic procedures to establish a qualifying condition (moderate or severe mental retardation; a serious physical disability; or an extraordinary physical or psychological condition that makes the beneficiary homebound)
- Treatment related to the qualifying condition
- Durable equipment related to the qualifying condition
- Assistive technology devices / training for use of devices
- Vocational training
- Special education
- Applied behavioral analysis
- Training of family members to deliver educational/behavioral interventions
- Institutional care in a residential environment
- Transportation, including medical attendant
- Extended home health care
- Respite care

If you have questions about the ECHO program or coverage for your family member, please visit

www.tricare.mil/echo/default.cfm.

Winn Briefs

New student in Georgia?

Children ages four and older entering Georgia's School system for the first time must have the Georgia Certificate of Eye, Ear and Dental Screening form and the Georgia Certificate of Immunization completed. Winn Army Community Hospital wants to help you get a head start on preparing for the next school year. All services except eye and ear screenings are available on a walk-in basis for school health screenings.

Dental screenings are available Monday to Thursday from 3 to 4 p.m. and Friday from 2 to 3 p.m. on a walk-in basis at Dental Clinic 1. For more information, call 767-8513. Immunization screenings are available on a walk-in basis Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday from 1- 3 p.m. For more information, call the Allergy Immunization Clinic at 435-6633. Eye and ear services are available by appointment only. To schedule an eye or ear screening, call the appointment line, 435-6633.

School sports physicals available

School sports physicals are available by appointment during normal clinic hours Monday through Friday at Winn's Pediatric clinic. To schedule a sports physical, call the appointment line, 435-6633.

I'm pregnant. Now what?

Congratulations on your pregnancy. Prenatal care is available at both Winn Army Community Hospital at Fort Stewart and Tuttle Army Health Clinic at Hunter Army Airfield. Pregnancy tests are available.

Active duty Soldiers need a documented pregnancy from the laboratory. Civilian spouses may confirm pregnancy with a home test or by a hospital urine test. Please call 435-6633 to schedule a new OB nurse interview and an OB physical appointment at Winn or Tuttle.

Book appointments online

Want an alternative to calling the appointment line? TRICARE online could be your answer. You can book your appointments online at the TRICARE online Web site, www.tricareonline.com.

This link is also available through the Winn Web site homepage, www.winn.amedd.army.mil.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

AMANDA
LAVALLE



Amanda Lavalley of San Diego, Calif., is a Red Cross volunteer working in the Obstetrics Department at Winn Army Community Hospital.

Lavalley volunteers to gain work experience and to help other military mothers. Her interests and hobbies include acting, dancing, writing and reading.

If you'd like more information about becoming an American Red Cross volunteer at Winn, call Brigitte Roberts at 435-6903.

Fix DEERS, get healthcare

Beneficiaries must keep their DEERS information up-to-date or they may not be able to receive referrals, schedule appointments or access TRICARE Online. DEERS information can be updated by calling 1-800-538-9552, or stopping by Building 253 on Fort Stewart.

Ready to quit class

This class is for those interested in quitting tobacco use. This class is a prerequisite to tobacco-use cessation classes. The classes are held the fourth Wednesday of every month at 11 a.m., call 435-5071.

Stay focused, keep your eye on the ball

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chap. (Capt.) Lee Harms

4/64 Armor, 4th BCT

I recently listened to an elderly man reminisce about a football game that he had participated in years ago when football players had little protective equipment to include no face guard and a helmet made only of leather. Early in the game he was thrown a pass, but anticipating getting hit by a player from the opposite team who was twice his size, he momentarily took his eye off the football and missed the pass. He was also plowed over by the other player, and at half-time his coach reproved him in front of the rest of the team telling him, "Never, ever take your eye off the ball!" Later in

the game, when the team was 4 points behind with only a short time remaining, he was again thrown a pass. This time he followed his coach's instructions and did not take his eye off the ball. He caught the pass and scored a touch down causing his team to win the game.

Never taking our eye off the ball is a good lesson in life as well as in sports. When we stay focused on keeping the promises that we have made to friends, family, ourselves and to God, then we are more likely to actually keep those promises. In the bible we are taught that, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also," (Matthew 6:21). We live in a time when it is often considered acceptable to just quit when things get tough. However, if we just stay focused and "stick with it" most of our goals can be accomplished, most marriages can be successful, and we can become the people that

God desires us to be.

An outstanding example of someone who "kept her eye on the ball" is that of Madame Marie Curie who worked together with her French physicist husband, Pierre Curie, in an old abandoned leaky shed without funds and without outside encouragement or help, trying to isolate radium from a low-grade uranium ore called pitchblende. And after their 487th experiment had failed, Pierre threw up his hands in despair and said, "It will never be done. Maybe in a hundred years, but never in my day." Marie confronted him with a resolute face and said, "If it takes a hundred years, it will be a pity, but I will not cease to work for it as long as I live." In the end, she was successful and, because she did not quit, cancer patients have benefited greatly.

In Ecclesiastes we learn that "the race is not

to the swift nor the battle to the strong" but that we must stick with it and never give up on a worthy cause. So wrote the poet...

Stick to your task till it sticks to you;
Beginners are many, but enders are few.
Honor, power, place, and praise
Will always come to the one who stays.

Stick to your task till it sticks to you;
Bend at it, sweat at it, smile at it too;
For out of the bend and the sweat and the smile
Will come life's victories, after awhile
-Author Unknown

So remember, whatever your unique challenge is, "stick to your task," "keep your eye on the ball," and with God's help, the victory will be yours.

Chapel Schedule

Fort Stewart

Catholic	Location	Time
Sunday Mass	Heritage	.9 a.m.
Saturday Mass	Heritage	.5 p.m.
Protestant		
Contemporary Worship	Marne	.11 a.m.
Gospel Worship	Victory	.11 a.m.
Traditional Worship	Marne	.9 a.m.
American Samoan	Vale	.11 a.m.
Liturgical Worship	Heritage	.11 a.m.
Kids' Church (K to 6th grade)	Across from Dia. Elem.	.11 a.m.
PWOC (Tuesday)	Marne	.9:30 a.m.

Islamic		
Friday Jum'ah	Marne	.1:30 p.m.
Contact Staff Sgt. Aiken at 877-4053.		

Jewish		
Contact Sgt. 1st Class. Crowther at 332-2084.		
Friday	Marne	.11:30 a.m.

Hunter Army Airfield

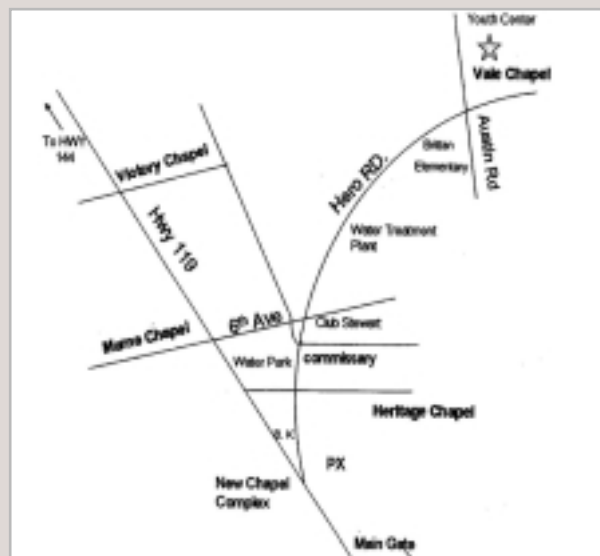
Catholic	Chapel	.11 a.m.
Sunday Mass	Chapel	.9 a.m.
Protestant		
Sunday Service	Chapel	.9 a.m.

Religious Education Contacts

Stewart and Hunter, Director of RE, Mike Iliff, call 767-9789.
Stewart Catholic RE coordinator, Beth Novak, call 767-6825.
Hunter Catholic RE coordinator, Pamela Perez, call 315-5440.

Fort Stewart Chapel Youth Ministry Junior and Senior High Students!

Join us for free games and pizza
6:30 - 8 p.m. Sunday,
at Vale Chapel in Bryan Village.
For more information,
call 877-7207.



Kids Church

Exciting Bible Lessons
with music, puppets, videos, crafts, games

11 a.m. to Noon, Sunday

at School Age Services

(across from Diamond Elementary)

For all kids Grade K-6

Scheduled Bus Pick-up

10:15 a.m. - Liberty and Hendrich, Liberty and Sicily, Liberty and Anzio, Liberty and Rome

10:20 a.m. - Jasmine and Skyland Spruce, Jasmine and Liberty Wood, Wild Fern and Golden Birch

10:30 a.m. - Schofield and Sansidro, Schofield and Hollandia, Rogers and Argyle

10:40 a.m. - Naklong and New Guinea, Ormoc and New Guinea

10:50 a.m. - Marne Chapel

10:55 a.m. - Victory Chapel

Questions?

Contact Chaplain Ric Thompson at 767-6831



Savannah Cultural Events

Activities sponsored by the Savannah Department of Cultural Affairs include these ongoing events:

Every first Friday of the month

Folk Music by Savannah Folk Music Society, 7:30 p.m., Free at Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church.

The Arts at City Market Center, Upstairs, Jefferson and West St. Julian Streets, free 6:30- 8:30 p.m. Call 232-7731.

Every first Saturday of the month

Adult and youth basic ballroom dance classes, by Moon River Dancers: 1-3 p.m. at W. Broad Street YMCA, 1110 May Street. Admission is \$3 per person. Call 925-7416 or visit www.savannahusabda.org

Every third Wednesday of the month

Open Mic Poetry Night - Signup at 7:45 p.m., Gallery Espresso, 6 East Liberty St. Call 233-5348.

Saturdays and Sundays

Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home Foundation tours 1-5 p.m. every Saturday and 1-4 p.m. on Sundays.

Located at 207 E. Charlton St. on Lafayette Square. Born in Savannah in 1925, writer, Mary Flannery O'Connor, lived in a Charlton Street house until 1938.

Today, it is maintained partly as a memorial to her and partly as a literary center for Savannah. Literary activities are held at various times now through May, free. Call 233-6014.

Every Sunday

Oldie Goldies Sunday at the American Legion Post 500, 1716 Montgomery St., 4-8 p.m. Call 925-7116.

The Reel Savannah Film Group presenta-

tions, 7 p.m., Sunday evenings at the Lucas Theatre. Tickets, which are \$6, are available an hour before showtime.

Visit Armstrong Arboretum

Armstrong Atlantic State University has an arboretum, which encompasses the 250 acre campus and displays more than 100 species of trees and 200 species of shrubs and other woody plants.

The Fern Collection, featuring 23 varieties of native and non-native ferns, is on the west side of Jenkins Hall. The recently completed Ginger Collection focuses on seven groups of ginger plants and is at the south end of Hawes Hall. For more information or to schedule an educational tour, call AASU's plant operations at 921-5472.

Free dance lessons offered

Free ballroom dancing lessons are being offered at Club Stewart 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., the first Wednesday of every month by the Moon River Dancers Association in Savannah. It is for Soldiers and their families. Couples and Singles welcome. No registration required, just show up and learn. Call 767-8609, for information. Also, if you're into ballroom dancing and don't mind the drive, the Seaside Dance Association in St. Simons Island has dances every Tuesday and Thursday through the summer at Blanche's Courtyard starting at 7 p.m. The association also hosts a dance on the last Sunday of each month at the Jekyll Island Club Hotel, in the grand dining room. Instruction starts at 5:15 p.m., and seating for the dinner and dance starts at 6 p.m. For more information, call 634-9527 or e-mail,

SeasideDance@bellsouth.net.

More Savannah events offered

Saturday, Daffin Park. Book clubs come together for book discussions. Participants are invited to return copies of the book. All copies of the book returned will be sent to our deployed troops. All events are free and open to the public. For the most up-to-date information on events, go to ***www.savannahga.gov/arts***, 961-3173.

Traveling Wall visits Savannah

The traveling version of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial will make its way to the Coastal Empire. Half the size of the original structure located in Washington, DC, "The Wall That Heals" is etched with the more than 58,000 names of those who died in the war. Opening ceremonies are scheduled June 14 at Emmet Park in Savannah and events will wrap up the following Sunday, June 17. Leisure Services City of Savannah is sponsoring the event and it will be hosted by the Vietnam Veteran's of America Chapter 671. Call 927-3356 or visit ***www.vvmf.org*** for more information.

Experience the Vidalia Onion Fest

Vidalia will hold its 30th annual Onion Fest April 27-29 featuring arts and crafts, a street dance and the Navy's Blue Angels conducting an air show you don't want to miss. For more information call 912-538-8687.

SSU to host Dance Concert

Savannah State University's Department of Fine Arts will hold present the Essence of Movement Dance Concert 8 p.m., tonight -

Saturday in the Kennedy Fine Arts building. The concert will feature modern and African dance performed by SSU's visual and performing arts students as well as other students who are enrolled in dance courses. Tickets, which are \$3 for SSU students and faculty and \$5 for the public, will be available at the door beginning at 7 p.m.

Come to Blessing of the Fleet

The 39th Annual Blessing of the Fleet on the beautiful and historic Darien Waterfront is set for April 20-22. Enjoy music, arts, crafts, antiques, fireworks, and food, while sharing the blessing of Georgia's largest and oldest shrimp fleet. Opening ceremonies begin at 7 p.m. on Friday evening continuing through to closing ceremonies at 6 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is free and last year 80,000 people enjoyed the three-day event. This year is going to be bigger and better. There is over 24 hours of live music being performed at the waterfront park, and 150 vendors - 40 are serving food and yes, you can enjoy the best Wild Georgia Shrimp!

SSU alumni chapter seeks choirs

The Savannah Chapter of the Savannah State University National Alumni Association will hold its third annual Choir Song Fest 4 p.m., April 22, at St. Philip AME Church, located 613 MLK Jr. Blvd. While there is no participation or entry fee, choirs should register by Friday by calling 271-2101 or sending an e-mail to ***ws.moore65@yahoo.com***. The fest is open to the public. A free-will offering will be collected during the program. Proceeds will benefit the chapter's scholarship fund.



Nondice Powell
Hunter Public Affairs

There are women across the U.S., and the world, who go through their pregnancies without the support many would expect. For various reasons, they do not have family or friends nearby. Some do have the support, but decide they would like more from someone experienced in pregnancy and delivery. A person who can offer some of this support is a doula.

According to the Merriam-Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus a doula is "a woman who provides assistance to a mother before, during, and just after childbirth." Doulas do not provide medical assistance. They are able to provide a mother with emotional support, help with preparing a birth plan, and use massage and other methods to help a mother relieve pain without medicine and much more.

One organization is offering their support as doulas to members of the military community. Their service is free to those who qualify for the program. Operation Special Delivery started after the Sept. 11 attacks on the U.S., according to the OSD website, www.operationspecialdelivery.com.

Patricia Newton, a doula from New Jersey, started the organization when she immediately saw the U.S. military and their families as indirect victims of the attacks. Because she was geographically located between Washington, D.C. and New York, she asked nearby doulas via the internet if they would be willing to donate their services to any pregnant woman who either lost her partner on 9/11, or would be giving birth without the presence of her partner due to future deployments.

Doulas across the U.S. reached out to offer their services. By January 2005, the program had grown to be quite large and was offered to and is now under the care of the Childbirth and Postpartum Professional Association.

"I think OSD is a much needed worthwhile cause," said Mary Beth Nance, CAPPA director of OSD.

"It is essential to support those left behind when our troops are deployed. While it may be 'their job,' and a job they chose, military families still make great sacrifices for our entire country and that is something that we need to be thankful and appreciative for."

OSD has several doulas near the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield communities who offer their volunteer services to members of the military community, including guard and reserve

members. Some volunteer because they have used a doula and understand the benefits. Some volunteer because they are members of the military community, and others because they just want to show their appreciation.

Minda Bare, wife of a former California National Guard Soldier and now an OSD volunteer doula in the area, saw firsthand how deployments affect families when her husband's unit deployed to Kuwait in Sept. 2001.

Many of the unit's family members lived more than an hour away from a military installation. With a two-year-old and four-month-old to care for, Bare was one of many of the moms caring for her children and living a distance from a military installation.

"Being so spread out and far away from an active military base made support impossible," said Bare. "We could not lean on each other for support, nor could we benefit from the resources offered

"It takes a very strong woman to live the life of a military spouse,"

Christy Shields
Operation Special Deliver coordinator

at the military base. It was terrible that so many families, especially moms with little ones on the way or underfoot, were left with so little resources despites our unit's attempts to try and keep everyone connected."

Bare and other doulas use their skills to provide moms-to-be with some of the support that was missing when her husband deployed. Doulas help provide support for those whose loved ones serve our nation.

"Here in Savannah and its surrounding areas our military families are truly blessed by what is accessible to them," said Bare. "Being a doula in this area gives us a wonderful opportunity to be a part of the network that holds our military families together. Many of our military families find themselves in new areas, facing or going through a deployment, and having babies. Being a doula that has chosen to participate in OSD gives us a chance to bless these families in a significant way; the way they have all blessed us."

Ann Carroll, an OSD volunteer doula became interested while teaching pregnancy yoga in Savannah over the past five years. She has had students ask for her support during labor and delivery.

"Many ask because they are new to Savannah and don't have family here except for a spouse or boyfriend. I've also had some women with spouses who were out of the country and that is a need that I really want to address."

Sharon Kennedy and her husband retired in Savannah after teaching overseas for 25 years. Her personal experience from having the support of a doula during the birth of her two children in Belgium and the encouragement from her daughter, a doula in the Boston-area who loves being a birth attendant, led to her decision to become a doula.

"I had a very difficult delivery with my son," said Kennedy. "Although my husband was by my side the whole time, he was new to the whole birth endeavor as well. My doula was my 'Rock of Gibraltar.' Her touch and her words kept me calm and focused as I went through 24 hours of back labor. I have been forever grateful to this woman who also saw my daughter into the world two years later."

As the wife of a Soldier for more than nine years, Christy Shields, OSD Georgia state coordinator, is passionate about supporting servicemembers and their families. She decided to become a doula after a friend told her about a doula that had spoken with her childbirth education class. She joined OSD shortly after training to become a doula.

"It takes a very strong woman to live the life of a military spouse," said Shields. "I think it is wonderful to have the opportunity to support these women when they need it most. It is also wonderful that the Soldier feels a little more comfortable knowing his wife is being supported when he can't be there to hold her hand."

The doulas all receive positive feedback from those they help support. The memories and sentiments of those they support are always with them.

"Though the mother does all the work, the words 'I couldn't have done it without you' are often heard by doulas," said Shields.

"The best stories are when Dad just makes it home on R and R (rest and recuperation) in time for the birth. Sometimes babies just know when they are supposed to come."

Those interested in having the support of a volunteer doula can call 1-888-MY-CAPPA or send an e-mail to osd@cappa.net. For more information on how to obtain the services of a volunteer doula or to become a volunteer doula go to www.operationspecialdelivery.com.

Virtual-User Environment testing comes to Stewart, Hunter education centers

Special to the Frontline

Corpral Victor Aguilera, from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment is the first Fort Stewart Soldier to have taken a computerized certification exam at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center.

On April 4, Aguilera took the Intermediate Emergency Medical Technician exam through the newly acquired Pearson VUE testing systems.

Aguilera is a medic who prepared for the test by completing Savannah Tech's Intermediate Emergency Medical Technician course at Liberty Campus in Hinesville. Most medics need certification and more than 150 Soldiers took the paper and pencil version of

the EMT Basic exam in 2006 at the education center.

By becoming a Pearson VUE test center, the Stewart education center opened the door for Soldiers to have access to a much broader variety of tests than before. There are hundreds of certification exams available in addition to the various EMT exams. There are numerous information technology exams that can be administered. Examples of the 87 possible tests include Microsoft, IBM, Novell, Check Point, Macromedia, The American College, and many others. A person's training and experience won't be nearly as useful or desirable without completing the certification to support it. Then one's skills will be more marketable and, thus, more employable. For example, Pearson VUE was selected to offer certification vouchers to assist in the implementation of Department of Defense

Directive 8570 which mandates commercial IT certifications for personnel performing IT security functions. More than 80,000 Department of Defense military and civilian personnel will need to comply with the directive.

The steps for registering and testing at the education center are as follows:

- Go to www.pearsonVUE.com and start an account and learn more about all of the available tests.
- Upon approval to take the test, you will receive a Candidate ID#.
- To schedule the test at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center, contact Wendell Johnston, and have your candidate ID# available.

Stewart's alcohol screening day slated for April 13

Special to the Frontline

For most adults, moderate alcohol use causes few, if any, problems. But for some, any alcohol use may lead to significant health problems. Trying to figure out the risks associated with alcohol use is not easy because alcohol affects your body differently at different times. To protect yourself, it is important to figure out where you should draw the line when consuming alcohol – where do you draw the line if you are try-

ing to get pregnant, have a family history of alcohol abuse, develop a medical condition, or if you take certain medications.

To help determine where you should draw the line, the Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) is offering a free, anonymous education and screening program as part of National Alcohol Screening Day. The free screenings will be held Friday, April 13, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in Bldg. 253, Soldier Service Center.

As part of the program, participants will have

an opportunity to view videos on alcohol problems, complete a written self-test, and talk privately with a health professional - all for free. Pamphlets, brochures and flyers will be available, as well as referrals to local treatment and support resources for those who need further evaluation.

National Alcohol Screening Day, held in April as part of Alcohol Awareness Month, is a program of the nonprofit organization Screening for Mental Health, Inc. in collaboration with the

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Screenings will be held across the country at approximately 5,000 screening sites, including hospitals, alcohol and addiction treatment centers, primary care offices and colleges.

For additional information or to take the confidential screening online, visit: www.NationalAlcoholScreeningDay.org.

Briefs

Little Creek Cemetery/Gunter Family visit

Area residents of Bryan, Chatham, Liberty and Tattnall Counties, and those who have family buried at Little Creek Cemetery on Fort Stewart are invited to join the Gunter Family from Bryan County Saturday, May 14 as they place permanent headstones on the gravesites of five family members buried there.

All attendees are required to meet the Fort Stewart Game Warden at the Bryan County Courthouse in Pembroke on Hwy 119 no later than 9:30 a.m.

The group will be escorted in their vehicles to and from the cemetery site via Fort Stewart Road 67.

A brief monument dedication/memorial will be held at 10 a.m. For general information about this event please contact Gail Aldridge at 767-5687.

ThanksUSA Scholarship-Apply Now!!

ThanksUSA has established a scholarship program to assist dependents and spouses of U.S. military service personnel, including spouses and children of the Fallen and Wounded Warriors, who plan to continue their education in college, vocational or technical school programs. Scholarships are offered for full-time study at a United States accredited institution of the student's choice.

This scholarship program is adminis-

tered by Scholarship Management Services, a department of Scholarship America. Scholarship America is a national nonprofit educational support and student aid service organization that seeks to involve and assist the private sector in expanding educational opportunities and encouraging educational achievement. Awards are granted without regard to race, color, creed, religion, gender, disability or national origin.

ELIGIBILITY

- Must be a dependent child age 24 and under, as of the May 18.

- Dependant of active-duty U.S. military service personnel, or spouses of active-duty U.S. military service personnel.

- Must be current high school seniors or graduates who plan to enroll or students who are already enrolled in a full-time undergraduate course of study at a U.S. accredited two-or four-year college or university or vocational-technical school for the 2007-08 academic year.

- Must have at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent on their relevant academic record.

AWARDS

If selected as a recipient, the student will receive an award of \$1000. More than \$3.5 million were given out in 2006. The Air Force submitted the most applications, and therefore received more money than the Army family member eligibles!

Deadline is May 18. Only the first 3,000 applications received will be processed.

For more information contact (877) THX-USAS / (877) 849-8727 or (507) 931-0408.